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February 22, 2011

EX PARTE OR LATE FILE

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up
CC Docket No. 96-45; WC Docket 03-109

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am writing today concerning the Universal Service – Lifeline and Link-Up Programs. The Lifeline Program provides an invaluable service to many low income constituents that reside in my **New York State District**. It is a program that is vital to giving the consumer that is disproportionately affected by our current recession, the ability to stay connected for much needed emergency and non-emergency medical attention, childcare matters, education pursuits, and access to government at a subsidized rate.

As the State of New York struggles with tremendous economic and financial challenges, which historically adversely impact the low income consumer the hardest, we must ensure that qualifying consumers are at the least able to get connected and stay connected based on the discounts on basic monthly service and initial installation or activation fees for telephone service at their primary residence. It has been shown that access to phone service leads to better chances for employment opportunities, greater community awareness and participation.

The Federal Communication Commission's Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Lifeline and Link-Up recently presented recommendations to the Commission on ways to reduce fraud, waste and abuse within the Universal Service system. Efficiency and sustainability are key components in moving into the 21st century in the area of communication for all. Thereby, I support the "four pillars" of reform as outlined in the Chairman's statement to see these programs sustainable in the short and long-term. However, it is important to note that the Commission should not adopt any policy that caps funding for low income support or hinder competition in a market that is already underserved. I would also encourage the FCC to **not** apply any monthly subscriber fees for Lifeline users. Such action may pose an undue



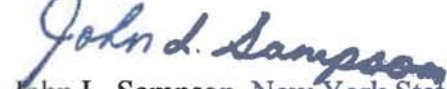
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administrative burden on carriers and consumers. The most effective way to minimize any fraud and abuse may be to establish an eligibility database.

Thank you for your service and considering my constituents during the reform process. I look forward to seeing the changes that will strengthen these important programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John L. Sampson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John L. Sampson, New York State Senate

cc: Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Robert McDowell, Commissioner ✓
Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner
Meredith Baker, Commissioner